CLMPTO

06/29/2001

DM

Claim 1 (Original)

1. A head end device for use in a hierarchical network, the device comprising a classifier connectable to a source of content and operable to place the content into at least one of a plurality of hierarchical data streams corresponding to a particular class of content.

Claim 2 (Original)

2. A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the classification of content is made in accordance with its data type.

Claim 3 (Original)

3. A device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the classifier is connectable to a data stream of content in the form of data elements and a splitter connected to the output of the classifier wherein the classifier identifies the data type of each element of the stream and inserts a marker into said stream indicative of a priority assigned to the element such that splitter subsequently places each data element, in accordance with the marker, into a corresponding hierarchical transport stream for subsequent transmission by the network.

4.   (Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 2, further including a connection to a look-up table accessible in use by said classifier, the table comprising a set of profiles, each of which includes at least one definition of a priority for a particular data type wherein the selection by the classifier of a particular profile for identifying the data type of each element is determined by the network.

5.   (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a predetermined criterion.

Claim 6 (Original)

6. A method of transmitting content in a hierarchical network comprising classifying content received for transmission and placing the content into at least one of a plurality of hierarchical data streams corresponding to the classification of the content.

Claim 7 (Original)

7. A method as claimed in Claim 6, including defining a data stream for a particular classification.

Claim 8 (Original)

8. A method as claimed in Claim 7, including establishing a set of profiles, each of which

includes at least one definition of a data stream for a particular classification wherein

the selection of a particular profile is determined by the network.

Claim 9 (Original)

9. A method as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the network determines the selection of a

profile on the basis of an intended recipient of the content.

Claim 10 (Original)

10. A method as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the network determines the selection of

a profile on the basis of a service providing said content.

Claim 11 (Original)

11. A method as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the network determines the selection of

a profile on the basis of network load.

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein

said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a

predetermined criterion.

13. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein

the network is a terrestrial digital video broadcast network

(DVB-T).

Claim 14 (Amended)

14. A computer program comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a computer, wherein the computer is operable in accordance with said code to carry out the method according to claim 6.

Claim 15 (Original)

15. A program as claimed in Claim 14, stored on a computer readable medium.

Claim 16 (Original)

16. A system for delivering content over a hierarchical network, comprising a source of content deliverable, to a network, the network including head end equipment operable to place content into at least one of a plurality of selected hierarchical data streams for transmission by a transmitter, and a terminal operable to receive the data stream, wherein the head-end equipment classifies the content and in accordance with the classification places it into a corresponding hierarchical data stream.

Claim 17 (Original)

17. A system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the terminal provides a return channel connectable, in use, to the network, such that a request for the delivery of content may be originated by the terminal.

18.   (Amended) A system as claimed in Claim 16 , wherein said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a predetermined criteria.

Claim 19 (Original)

19.   A method of delivery content to a terminal in a network having a plurality of hierarchical data streams, the method comprising receiving a request for content, passing said request to a network gateway and subsequently receiving content identified in said request in the form of at least one content element, classifying said at least one content element, assigning a priority to said at least one content element in accordance with said classification and assigning said content element to a hierarchical data stream appropriate to said priority.

Claim 20 (Original)

20.   A method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein a user identity is identified from said request and a corresponding user profile obtained in accordance with which profile priority is assigned to said at least one content element.

21.   (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein said request is received in a return channel established by a terminal of a public land mobile network via a public switched telephone network and said content element is delivered over a

broadband broadcast network.

Claim 22 (Amended)

22. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a predetermined criteria.

23. (Amended) A computer program comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a computer, wherein the computer is operable in accordance with said code to carry out the method according to claim 19.

Claim 24 (Original)

24. A program as claimed in Claim 23, stored on a computer readable medium.

Claim 25 (New)

-- 25. A device as claimed in Claim 3, further including a connection to a look-up table accessible in use by said classifier, the table comprising a set of profiles, each of which includes at least one definition of a priority for a particular data type wherein the selection by the classifier of a particular profile for identifying the data type of each element is determined by the network.

Claim 26 (Original)

26. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a predetermined criterion.

Claim 27 (Original)

27. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a predetermined criterion.

Claim 28 (Original)

28. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a predetermined criterion.

Claim 29 (Original)

29. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a predetermined criterion.

Claim 30 (Original)

30. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a predetermined criterion.

Claim 31 (Original)

31.   A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the network
is a terrestrial digital video broadcast network (DVB-T).

Claim 32 (Original)

32.   A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the network
is a terrestrial digital video broadcast network (DVB-T).

Claim 33 (Original)

33.   A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the network
is a terrestrial digital video broadcast network (DVB-T).

Claim 34 (Original)

34.   A computer program comprising executable code for
execution when loaded on a computer, wherein the computer is
operable in accordance with said code to carry out the method
according to claim 7.

Claim 35 (Original)

35.   A computer program comprising executable code for
execution when loaded on a computer, wherein the computer is
operable in accordance with said code to carry out the method
according to claim 8.

Claim 36 (Original)

36. A computer program comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a computer, wherein the computer is operable in accordance with said code to carry out the method according to claim 9.

Claim 37 (Original)

37. A computer program comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a computer, wherein the computer is operable in accordance with said code to carry out the method according to claim 10.

Claim 38 (Original)

38. A system as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a predetermined criteria.

Claim 39 (Original)

39. A method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein said request is received in a return channel established by a terminal of a public land mobile network via a public switched telephone network and said content element is delivered over a broadband broadcast network.

Claim 40 (Original)

40. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a predetermined criteria.

Claim 41 (Original)

41. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said hierarchical data streams are ranked in accordance with a predetermined criteria.

Claim 42 (Original)

42. A computer program comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a computer, wherein the computer is operable in accordance with said code to carry out the method according to claim 20.

Claim 43 (Original)

43. A computer program comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a computer, wherein the computer is operable in accordance with said code to carry out the method according to claim 21.

Claim 44 (Original)

44. A computer program comprising executable code for execution when loaded on a computer, wherein the computer is operable in accordance with said code to carry out the method according to claim 22. --